

Docket No.: 17195/002001
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Shinsuke Inoue et al.

Application No.: 10/528,530

Confirmation No.: 8299

Filed: March 18, 2005

Art Unit: 1796

For: NOVEL THERMOPLASTIC POLYIMIDE AND
IMIDE OLIGOMER

Examiner: D. Truong

DECLARATION OF HIROYASU INAGAKI UNDER 37 CFR § 1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

I, HIROYASU INAGAKI, hereby declare that:

1. My name is Hiroyasu Inagaki. I am over the age of eighteen years, of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. The facts stated herein are of my personal knowledge, and I know them to be true and correct.
2. I received a Master's Degree in Department of Chemistry from the Graduate School of Science at Hiroshima University in 2002.
3. I am currently employed by Manac Incorporated. I have worked in the field of polyimide chemistry for about seven years. Since 2002, I have been involved in the Research Laboratory of polyimide technology.
4. I am a named inventor on the present application, U.S. Patent Application No. 10/528,530.

Application No.: 10/528,530

Docket No.: 17195/002001

5. Between October 10-17, 2008, I conducted several experimental tests in which I formed an imide oligomer powder by polymerizing bis(2,3-dicarboxyphenyl)ether dianhydride with bis(4-(4-aminophenoxy)phenyl)sulfone, and using 4-phenylethynylphthalic anhydride as a capping agent, by procedures similar to those described in Example 1 of the present application. To form a comparative imide oligomer powder, I polymerized bis(3,4-dicarboxyphenyl)ether dianhydride with bis(4-(4-aminophenoxy)phenyl)sulfone, and used 4-phenylethynylphthalic anhydride as a capping agent, also using procedures similar to those described in Example 1 of the present application. Thus, the only difference between the two oligomer powders were the acid component used, bis(2,3-dicarboxyphenyl)ether dianhydride (also referred to as 3-ODPA) as compared to bis(3,4-dicarboxyphenyl)ether dianhydride (also referred to as 4-ODPA).
6. Each of the resultant imide oligomer powders was excessively added to several solvents (listed below in Table 1) at room temperature, and then stirred to prepare a suspension. The suspension was filtered, and the filtrate was obtained as "a saturated solution." The saturated solution was measured by weight and then dried over 30 min at 250°C (except for THF, which was at 100°C), and the residue was measured by weight. Solvent solubility (wt%) was calculated according to the following equation:

$$\text{Solvent solubility (wt\%)} = \text{Dry residue (g)} / \text{Saturated solution (g)} * 100$$

7. Table 1 below shows the obtained solvent solubility results for the imide oligomer powders formed, as described above:

Table 1

Example No.	Acid Anhydride	Diamine component	End-capping Agent	Solvent solubility			
				NMP	DMAc	γ-BL	THF
Example 1	3-ODPA	BAPS	PEPA	31.0	35.0	33.0	1.3
Example 2	4-ODPA	BAPS	PEPA	13.0	2.8	0.4	0.2

Application No.: 10/528,530

Docket No.: 17195/002001

Where the following abbreviations are used:

Abbreviation	Chemical Name
3-ODPA	Bis(2,3-dicarboxyphenyl)ether dianhydride
4-ODPA	Bis(3,4-dicarboxyphenyl)ether dianhydride
BAPS	Bis(4-(4-aminophenoxy)phenyl)sulfone
PEPA	4-Phenylethynylphthalic anhydride
NMP	N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone
DMAc	N,N-Dimethylacetamide
γ -BL	γ -Butyrolactone
THF	Tetrahydrofuran

8. The solvent solubility values shown in Table 1 show a drastic difference between imide oligomers formed with 3-ODPA and 4-ODPA. In particular, the polyimide or imide oligomers made with 3-ODPA, such as that claimed by the present invention, have an excellent solvent solubility compared to those using 4-ODPA as an acid anhydride.

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroyasu Inagaki
Hiroyasu Inagaki

Date: March 11, 2009